

Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund & Vessel Turn-In Program



Department of Boating and Waterways

Established 1957



Abandoned Vessels

***Increasing** on California's waterways*

Abandoned Vessels are a danger to:

- *Public safety*
- *Environment*
- *Wildlife*
- *Water supply*
- *Navigation*
- *Tourism*
- *Local businesses and residences*
- *Resources of state and local governments*



Removal is expensive and time consuming for law enforcement and harbormasters

The Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF)

Senate Bill 172 (Statutes of 1997)

To provide funding to local public agencies to remove, store and dispose of abandoned, wrecked, or dismantled vessels or any other partially submerged objects which pose a substantial hazard to navigation or a threat to the environment or public safety

- Since 1998, total vessels and hazards removed: **1582**
- Total spent: **\$4,968,699**
- Average cost: **\$3100 per issue**
- 2012/13 participating agencies: **20**

COMMERCIAL VESSELS ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THIS PROGRAM

What qualifies as an AWAFF hazard?



Partially or fully submerged abandoned or wrecked boats, cars or other submerged objects



Abandoned barges, piers and pilings



Floating trees, logs, docks, duck blinds, and other debris

HNC Section 525 (B) (ii)



Current AWAf 2012/13 Participants

• Brisbane Marina, City of Brisbane	\$ 75,000	
• Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County	\$ 30,000	
• Contra Costa County Sheriff's Dept	\$ 75,000	
• Crescent City Harbor District	\$ 30,000	
• Los Angeles: Catalina Island (Avalon)	\$ 15,000	
• Los Angeles: County Sheriff's Dept (Marina Del Rey)	\$ 25,000	
• Monterey Harbor, City of Monterey	\$ 10,000	
• Morro Bay Harbor Dept	\$ 8,000	
• Moss Landing Harbor District	\$ 30,000	
• Noyo Harbor District		\$ 5,000
• Port San Luis Harbor District	\$ 75,000	
• Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (Marin County)	\$ 75,000	
• San Diego Unified Port District	\$ 30,000	
• San Francisco: Port of San Francisco	\$ 50,000	
• San Mateo: Oyster Point Harbor	\$ 40,000	
• San Mateo: Pillar Point Harbor	\$ 40,000	
• Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept	\$ 12,000	
• Santa Cruz Port District	\$ 10,000	
• Vallejo Municipal Marina	\$ 60,000	
• Ventura Port District		\$ 5,000

State Further Addressing the
Abandoned Vessel Problem with...

Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP)

*A **pro-active program** designed to reduce and
prevent abandoned vessels*

How VTIP works...

Verified titleholder can **willingly surrender** a vessel, free of charge, to a participating agency



Owner is responsible for all outstanding debts, fees, rents, leases, or taxes owed before boat will be accepted

Facts about VTIP

- AB 166 established a three-year pilot program in 2010; sunsets 1/1/2014
- **SB 122 (Lieu) introduced in January 2013 to extend VTIP indefinitely**
- Funding comes from AWAFF
- **Annual budget of \$150K**
- Only *public* local agencies can apply for VTIP grants
- **10% in-kind match required**
- Increased from six to eleven participating agencies in 2012
- **Grant requests in 2012 exceeded available funds by 73%**
- Helping to prevent costly abandoned vessels

Current VTIP 2012/13 Participants

- CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT \$ 30,000
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT \$ 10,000
- MONTEREY HARBOR, CITY OF MONTEREY \$ 10,000
- MORRO BAY HARBOR DEPARTMENT \$ 7,000
- PORT SAN LUIS HARBOR DISTRICT \$ 25,000
- RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY (Marin) \$ 16,000
- SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT \$ 10,000
- SAN FRANCISCO: PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO \$ 20,000
- SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT \$ 10,000
- SANTA CRUZ PORT DISTRICT \$ 7,000
- VENTURA PORT DISTRICT \$ 5,000

AWAF vs. VTIP Comparisons

AWAF

- Total Funds Expended since 2010

\$1 Million

- Hazards Removed

251

- Average Cost Per Vessel

\$4,165

VTIP

- Total Funds Expended since 2010

\$267,000

- Hazards Removed

165

- Average Cost Per Vessel

\$1,600

The Need is Growing

	AWAF	VTIP
2011/12 FY Budget	\$500,000	\$100,000
2012/13 FY Budget	\$700,000	\$150,000
Budget Increase in '12	40%	50%
Agency Grant Requests for 2012/13	\$1,134,000	\$260,000
Shortfall	\$434,000	\$110,000

How to Apply

- Applications are due by 4/30
- Grant amounts are based on agency's "estimate of need"
- Grants are normally available by September of each year

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) website. The URL in the address bar is <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/funding/AWAF.aspx#Prior>. The browser's address bar also shows "Abandoned Watercraft ...". The website's header includes the DBW logo, the text "California Department of Boating and Waterways", and navigation links for "HOME", "SAFETY & EDUCATION", "ENVIRONMENT", "LICENSING", "LAW ENFORCEMENT", and "GRANTS & LOANS". A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled "Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF)". It includes a "QUICK HITS" sidebar with links to various documents and a main section with a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the AWAF grant. The FAQs cover topics such as how to apply, eligibility, grant coverage, and the application process. The main section also includes a paragraph explaining the purpose of the AWAF and a section titled "How to apply for an AWAF Grant?" which outlines the steps for applying, including submitting a "Letter of Intent" and a "Grant Application and Questionnaire". The bottom of the page provides contact information for Susan Sykes, Vessel Abatement Programs Analyst, including her email address and phone number.

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HOME SAFETY & EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT LICENSING LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS & LOANS

QUICK HITS

- 2012-2013 Participating Agencies List
- 2013 AWAF Information Summary
- Boat Salvaging and Recycling Companies
- Grant Application and Questionnaire
- Letter of Intent
- Reimbursement Claim Form
- Water Hazard Removal List (FOR ALL CONTRACTS PRIOR TO 2012/2013 ONLY)
- Contact Us
- Press Room
- Publications: View/Order

Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF)

- How to apply for an AWAF grant?
- Who is eligible?
- Can a private marina receive an AWAF grant?
- What does the grant cover and are there any special requirements?
- What will it cost?
- Can the public local agency be reimbursed for an abandoned watercraft they have already removed?
- What are the grantees responsibilities under the grant program?
- How to appeal the denial of a permit, license, or application?

In October of 1997, Senate Bill 172 (Rainey) created the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF). It provides funds to public agencies to remove, store, and dispose of abandoned, wrecked, or dismantled vessels or any other partially submerged objects which pose a substantial hazard to navigation, from navigable waterways or adjacent public property, or private property with the landowner's consent.

As part of its commitment to provide clean, safe and enjoyable recreational boating on California's waterways, the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) administers this statewide program. It allows public local agencies to apply for funding and, upon approval, enter into a contract grant agreement with DBW.

How to apply for an AWAF Grant?

1. **LETTER OF INTENT:** On your agency's letterhead, title this page "Letter of Intent" and include the following information:
 1. **Statement of Need:** Briefly explain existing or historical abandoned vessel (AV) problems and state the amount of anticipated costs for any specific issues and/or estimated need.
 2. **Plan of Action:** Explain your agency's experience pertaining to abandoned vessels and detail the procedures followed regarding identifying abandoned vessels, removal, storage, lien sales and salvage.
2. **GRANT APPLICATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE**
 1. **Complete the Grant Application** Note: the contact person is the individual representing your agency and will be DBW's direct contact who will address ALL questions and concerns on behalf of the grantee.
 2. **Complete the Questionnaire** Answer questions, and complete and sign the bottom section of the page.

Agencies interested in applying for an AWAF grant must submit a completed application packet by **April 30, 2013** to:

E-mail: [Susan Sykes, Vessel Abatement Programs Analyst](mailto:Susan.Sykes@dbw.ca.gov)
Call: (916) 263-8194
2000 Evergreen St., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815-3888

For more information visit DBW's website



www.dbw.ca.gov

Contact me

Susan Sykes

Vessel Abatement Analyst
Department of Boating and Waterways

susan.sykes@dbw.ca.gov

(916) 263-8194

